

the actual pictures to see the representation by way of pictures, it can make a difference in the psyche of people.

As a result of this march, many having suffered, we found that the civil rights law of 1965 was passed. This was done because people suffered and because the Edmund Pettus Bridge became a place for us to memorialize as hallowed grounds.

Moving forward, the civil rights acts, many of them—the history of those who were able to accomplish things by way of the courts is all predicated upon a lot of suffering that took place in this country. Too many people suffered so that I could have the opportunity to be here tonight to talk about these hallowed grounds.

I feel that it is my duty to do this. I know that talking about these things can create a good deal of discomfort for people. We ought to feel a certain amount of discomfort because what happened was, without question, something that this country should never want to see happen again and should never have happened ever to anyone.

But we must remember our history just as we are going to remember Pearl Harbor, just as we are going to remember 9/11, and just as we are going to remember World Wars I and II.

We have to remember the history in this country, the atrocities that occurred against African Americans as they were trying their very best to live peaceful lives. Hallowed grounds, the sites of African American memories.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for the time tonight to bring up these hallowed grounds and to talk about Black History Month, especially as it relates to some of the things that happened in this country.

But I also want to say this, Mr. Speaker. Notwithstanding all of the things that I have said and all of the memories that I have recounted, it is important for us to note that the country has truly come a long way.

I still contend that, notwithstanding all of the atrocities, this is a great place for Americans of all hues to find their way in the world.

This is a special country. I love my country, but I don't forget the things that happened in my country to cause us to memorialize certain places as hallowed ground.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE FIRST RESPONDERS AND LOCAL OFFICIALS FOR THEIR SELFLESS RECOVERY EFFORTS IN NORTH-EAST TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RATCLIFFE) for 30 minutes.

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, on December 26 last year, tornadoes ravaged northeast Texas, tragically resulting in the loss of several lives and destroying

hundreds of homes and small businesses in my Congressional District.

But in the wake of this tragedy, I was inspired to see how many wonderful people stepped up in our communities to help those in need.

I am especially grateful to our first responders and local officials whose selfless commitment and dedication to the ongoing recovery efforts over the past few months have brought so much healing to our communities.

In Rowlett, I would like to send a special thanks to Mayor Todd Gottle for his incredible leadership. To City Manager Brian Funderburk, the entire Rowlett Police and Fire Departments, the doctors and staff at Lake Pointe Medical Center, and local residents Sammy Walker and Bruce Hargrave, who pulled a mortally wounded man from the rubble of his home, thank you.

In Rockwell County, our thanks to County Judge David Sweet, Sheriff Harold Eavenson, Chief Deputy David Goelden, and Emergency Manager Joe DeLane.

In Collin County, I would like to thank County Judge Keith Self, Constable Gary Edwards, Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator Jason Lane, and the Collin County Sheriff's Department.

From Farmersville, thank you to the entire police and fire departments there, to Chief Mike Sullivan, to City Manager Ben White, and Mayor Joseph Helmberger.

In Blue Ridge, I would like to thank Mayor Rhonda Williams, the volunteer fire department there, and the Westminster Fire Department.

And in Hunt County, thanks to Judge John Horn and Homeland Security Manager Richard Hill.

Beyond this, I would like to thank the many churches and charities who offered their support, like First Baptist Farmersville and Pastor Bart Barber, First Baptist Rowlett and its director, Jon Bailey.

I know that, without the selfless efforts of all these great people and all these organizations, the recovery efforts and restoration of our communities would simply not be the same. Your efforts are so greatly appreciated.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. COOPER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and February 26 on account of attending a funeral.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 2109. An act to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop an integrated plan to reduce administrative costs under the Robert

T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, February 26, 2016, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4460. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a request for emergency supplemental appropriations to respond to the Zika virus both domestically and internationally (H. Doc. No. 114—103); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

4461. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy for the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing Lieutenant General John W. Nicholson, Jr., United States Army, to wear the insignia of the grade of general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777a(b)(4); Public Law 111-383, Sec. 505(a)(1); (124 Stat. 4208); to the Committee on Armed Services.

4462. A letter from the Director, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Community Development Financial Institutions Program (RIN: 1505-AA92) received February 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4463. A letter from the Director, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Bank Enterprise Award Program (RIN: 1505-AA91) received February 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4464. A letter from the Director, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Capital Magnet Fund (RIN: 1559-AA00) received February 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4465. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2014 Report on the Preventive Medicine and Public Health Training Grant and Integrative Medicine Programs, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 295c(d); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title VII, Sec. 768(d) (as amended by Public Law 111-148, Sec. 10501(m)); (124 Stat. 1002); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4466. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); and 22 U.S.C. 2349aa-9(c); Public Law 99-83, Sec. 505(c); (99 Stat. 221); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.